THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The Government had formulated a National youth Policy in 1988. In the light of the changes that have taken place and the experience gained, the Ministry have formualted a draft New National Youth Policy in consultation with Universities, Non- Government Organisations, State Governments, Central Government Ministries/Departments, Youth Wings of Political Parties and Youth Organisations.

The draft Policy proposes to lower the defining age of youth from 15-35 to 13.35 years. The thrust areas of the Policy will be:—

(i) Youth Empowerment;

(ii) Gender Justice;

(iii) Inter-Sectoral Approach; and

(iv) Information and Research Network.

The Policy also recognizes the following sectors as the key sectors of concern for youth:—

1. Education;

2. Training and Employment;

3. Health;

4. Environment;

5. Sports and Recreation;

6. Art and Culture;

7. Science and Technology;

8. Civics and Citizenship (d)

Does not arise.

Selection of Players for Afro-Asian Games

3663. SHRI RS. GAVAI: will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process for selection of athlete and other players for the coming Afro-Asian Games in New Delhi has been started;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for selection;

(c) whether Government propose to hold special training camps before and after the trials;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the facilities provided to Indian athletes to enhance their performance in games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) Initially number of Athletes/players were invited for coaching camps in preparation of Afro-Asain games. Now the process of weeding out the players, who did not improve their performance has begun. Final selection of players/teams will be made by duly constituted Selection Committees of the concerned National Sports Federation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Various Coaching Camps for preparation of Indian Players/teams are in progress at Patiala, Bangalore, Shimla, Shilaroo, Ludhiana, Chennai, Jallandhar, Delhi and Lucknow.

(e) To enhance the performance, the Indian Athletes are given specialized training during Coaching camps by the Indian & Foreign Coaches with required scientific and medical support.

Sports Festivals for Women

3664. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any central scheme of Sports Festival for Women (SFW) to promote women players in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Status of SFW in Andhra Pradesh, during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scheme of National Sports festival for Women, which was